DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. I NO. 17 AUGUST 29th 1952 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

EAST GERMANY'S GREAT PROJECT

Building A Socialist City

The work of building Germany's first Socialist city is in full swing near Fuerstenberg on the river Oder, and the first section of the city will be opened in the near future.

The city, which will house 25,000 workers in the great new "Ost Steel Kombinat", will be Socialist from one end to the other, without a single private shop, without landlords, and with facilities for sport, culture and health unequalled in a German city.

Work on the city was begun in 1951, and original plans called for its completion in 1955. The rapid growth of the great steel works, using Soviet iron ore and Polish coal to make steel for Germany, have made it necessary to push ahead even faster however. By the use of new building methods and pre-fabrication building work has been greatly speeded up, and the city will be completed in 1954 under present plans.

(Full details of this great project, which is rapidly becoming reality, will be found on page 2 of this issue. A plan of the new city is on page 7.)

West German Court Acquits Hitler

Hitler was not a criminal when he seized power in Germany in 1933, a West German court has decided. The provincial court of Tuebingen in West Germany made this ruling when anti-fascist fighter Willi Keinath applied for compensation for injuries suffered in Hitler's prisons and concentration camps.

The nazis had persecuted Keinath for organising a strike against them in 1933. The court rejected his application, stating: "Keinath took his action at a time (1933) when the criminal tendencies of nazism and its leaders were not apparent, and could not be predicted."

ARE THEY JUST PLAYING AT SOLDIERS?

Militarism Rampant in West Germany

No fewer than 37 different "old soldiers" organisations are active in West Germany today, research shows. One or two of these organisations are relatively harmless associations representing the interests of wounded men, war widows, etc., but the vast majority are para-military organisations, many with a strong nazi tinge. Here are details of some of the more notorious:

1. Association of German Soldiers (Verband Deutscher Soldaten).

The programme of the Association, which is biggest of the ex-soldier bodies, states:

"The Association includes all Germans who have proved themselves as soldiers in war and peace... We stand for right and liberty, and include in this demand all those Germans still held in custody (i. e. convicted war criminals, ed.)... We claim the restoration of all rights to former soldiers and their dependents."

The council of the Association reads like a nazi war communique, including such names as Guderian, Manteuffel, Stumpff, and Ramcke.

2. Stahlhelm.

This is a revived edition of the pre-Hitler Stahlhelm, the extreme nationalistic and militaristic organisation which merged with the Storm Troops after Hitler came to power. At the end of 1951 the organisation claimed 200,000 members in West Germany.

A manifesto issued by the organisation in June 1951 stated: "The Stahlhelm rejects the claim of the masses to lead themselves. We see no salvation in majority decisions dictated by the mass of the electorate."

3. Parachutists Association (Verband der Fallschirmjäger).

8000 former members of the nazi parachute troops are banded together under the leadership of former General Ramcke, who served a war crimes sentence in France. In a recent interview General Ramcke stated: "I knew the leaders of the (nazi) Security Service and the S.S. Police in France very well. They are real German men of honour from top to toe."

4. Brotherhood (Bruderschaft).

Reliable details of this organisation, which is run on semi-Masonic lines, are scanty, but it is known that attenders at its first full meeting in November 1950 were 60 percent former S.S. men, 10 percent nazi Labour Front officers, 10 percent former army officers, and 20 percent officials of the nazi party. The leader of the organisation, Beck-Broichsitter, former chief of operations of the "Greater Germany" Panzer division, defined the programme as "starting from the ruins of the Reichs Chancellery"

5. Free Corps "Germany" (Freikorps Deutschland).

The branches of the Free Corps have such names as "Doenitz," "Petain," and "Das Reich," and spokesmen for the organisation have stated as their aim the revival of Hitler's 25 Points in "an improved form."

6. Organisation of former S.S. Men (Gemeinschaft ehemaliger SS-Männer).

Reported to have 376 local groups with an average membership of 200. Leader of the organisation is General Kumm, the last commander of the S.S.Elite Troop "Adolf Hitler". The organisation is in touch with non-German S.S.men who fought in the campaign against the Soviet Union, and issues a bulletin which describes itself as "Information bulletin of the S.S., Gestapo and Security Service."

THE TOWN WITHOUT A NAME

Germany's First Socialist City

Main principles in planning the great new Socialist city on the river Oder, which is still a town without a name, were to divide the city into a number of semi-self-contained residential quarters; to concentrate the main buildings round one central square; to provide the maximum of open spaces and parks; and to form an organic whole between the town and the factory which gives it life.

Before beginning work on the plans architects studied very carefully the experiences of the Soviet Union, where many such cities have already been constructed.

Town and Factory Unit

A glance at the plan on page 7 will show the way in which the factory and the town complement each other. The main entrance to the factory grounds (No. 1, upper right) is situated at one end of the broad avenue leading through the centre of the city to the town hall and the other main buildings.

The town hall itself (No. 3) stands on higher ground and will form the visual centre of the whole city.

The huge blocks of apartments which make up the residential quarters are divided into five main blocks, each with its own shops and other facilities. Altogether a total of 7100 apartments are planned: 740 one-room apartments, 2848 two-room apartments, 2436 three-room apartments, 878 four-room apartments and 198 five-room apartments. Thus about two-thirds of the population will be accomodated in two and three-room apartments, which experience has shown to be the most popular size. All apartments will have a fully equipped modern kitchen, bathroom, and central heating.

Bachelor Quarters

In addition to the apartments there will be extensive bachelor quarters, which will provide single men and women with far better living accomodation than they could hope for as sub-tenants.

A big apprentices' house will provide living quarters for young workers from other parts of the country, and a student's home attached to the high school will give quarters for talented children from the farms in the district, who will thus be able to get a first class higher education.

Old people will not be neglected, and a comfortable home for 70 old age pensioners will be built in wooded country on the outskirts (No. 60 on the plan).

The first residential section of the city (upper right hand quarter of plan) is rapidly nearing completion, and the first residents will soon move in. Last minute changes were made in the plans for these first blocks of dwellings after workers had criticised the original scheme, on the grounds that the apartments were not up to the standards which Socialism demanded. Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht took immediate action, with the result that bedrooms and kitchens will be considerably larger than at first foreseen.

The new Socialist city abounds in parks, trees and flower beds. Almost every block of buildings is flanked by trees and gardens, and on the island in the Oder-Spree Canal a seventy-acre park, only a few minutes walk from the centre of the city, is planned.

Sports Facilities

Sportsmen will think that the city has been planned just for them. There will be a full-sized modern stadium for football and athletics; six separate playing fields on the outskirts of the town; dozens of tennis-courts; open-air and covered swimming pools; and facilities for sailing and rowing on the Oder river and the Oder-Spree Canal.

A town of 25,000 does not generally have a theatre, but the workers and technicians who live in the new city on the Oder will have a theatre of their own, both for amateur performances and for visits by the best theatrical groups from Berlin and elsewhere.

The great central House of Culture, biggest single building in the new city, will house a full-sized theatre seating 900 people; two smaller halls seating between 150 and 200; and eight smaller club rooms apart from a restaurant and cafe.

The town library, one of the first buildings to be completed, will for a start have 40,000 volumes on its shelves, together with a reading room for 600 people.

Cinemas will include one large building on the central square and five smaller ones, seating up to 300 people, in the separate residential areas.

Other public buildings will include a church (No. 22 on the plan), four club houses for Young Pioneers, restaurants and cafes.

One of the most difficult problems to settle in planning the town was the type of shopping centre to provide. There will be no private shops of course, but some planners favoured large department stores, while others supported a large variety of smaller shops.

The advocates of many smaller shops were able to make out the best case, and the main streets will be lined with finely equipped shops specialising in various lines. Cooperative stores and state shops will offer a wide range of goods, and services will be provided by shoemakers, tailors etc., working on a cooperative basis.

Health Services

Great attention in planning the town has been given to health and social services. The health services will be far better than anything known in Germany. The modern hospital will have 400 beds, and attached to it will be a clinic and a maternity home with 30 beds. A sanatorium for T. B. patients is also planned.

Since there will be no privately practising doctors in the new city there will be one doctor for every twenty beds in the hospital.

Health services will also include a special centre for mothers and children in the centre of town where mothers and future mothers will go for help and guidance in all their special problems.

And all of this is no utopian plan. The foundations for many of the main buildings have already been laid while the first residential section is being completed. In 1953 the first day nurseries, kindergartens and elementary schools will be built, as well as a big central laundry, a cinema, a hotel and bachelor quarters.

Hospital Ready Soon

The hospital, work on which is already in progress, will be completed in 1953, and one part of the town hall will be ready for occupation. The whole city will be completed by the end of 1954 at the latest.

In the past two years the workers of the "Ost Steel Kombinat" have been doing a wonderful job, erecting a huge modern steel works on a site which was forest and moorland a short while ago.

Soon they will be able to move into a city worthy of them, secure in the knowledge that the construction of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic means that they never need fear unemployment and want.

And the city without a name will be only the first of the great new constructions which democracy, peace and Socialism will bring to Germany.

Frischer Wind

"People's Police, people's factories, people's farms; by gad, I can almost pity those poor fellows in East Germany. First they got rid of the better classes like us, and now they find they have absolutely no one to fall back on except the ordinary people."

"Mind you don't tread on a tight Yank. A friend of mine got three months for doing just that."

Short and Sharp

An American asked a West German peasant "Do you need U.S.Aid?" "Have pity on us" replied the peasant. "We have already had a drought and hailstorms."

* * *

"Our police have completely liquidated the nazi underground movement in West Berlin" said West Berlin Mayor Ernst Reuter. "The nazis are all overground now."

* * *

"What do you think about disarmament Mr Acheson?"

"The time is not ripe. Our armaments have not yet reached a level which would make it worth while."

Fresh Wind

satirical paper published in East Berlin is one of the most popular papers in the German Democratic Republic.

It carries cartoons, caricatures, jokes and short stories, but it is very different from magazines like "Punch" and the "New Yorker", since its purpose is not merely to amuse and divert.

For instance two full pages every week are devoted to readers' letters, criticising shortcomings in East Germany, ranging from shoddy shoelaces to the lack of initiative shown by the Minister of Education.

These criticisms bring results, and every week "Frischer Wind" is able to report on things which have been put straight owing to its intervention.

Not only the negative side gets attention of course. More and more space is being given to cartoons and stories showing the great positive achievements in the German Democratic Republic.

The other great target for "Frischer Wind" is West Germany, and the war-makers there under the leadership of American big business.

On these four pages we have tried to give you a sample of what "Frischer Wind" gives its readers. Everything on these four pages comes from "Frischer Wind" in the past three months.

American readers will find some sharp attacks on their countrymen in these pages. That is not because "Frischer Wind" or other East German papers are "anti-American" but because unfortunately in Europe today we see little of the America of Abraham Lincoln, and much of American generals thirsting for a new war.

THE BONN TREATY

EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE

"You have planned the kitchen very well in this apartment you are designing. Have you experience in this branch?"

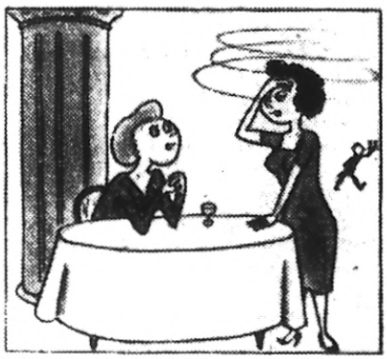
"Sure. I used to be a housemaid."

←

HOW TO GET AN APARTMENT

"You want to know if I am on particularly good terms with the housing department? Not at all — but I am on particularly good terms with my lathe in the factory."

↓



"I'm quite dizzy. I've just been dancing with Klaus, the boy who broke the record for high-speed-turning on his lathe."

"Gentlemen, we shall carry out Plan X in a number of stages...

first we shall occupy our factories in Thuringia...

our coal mines in Saxony...

and our estates in Mecklenburg...

American Baedeker

(European Edition)

1. Europe is a rifle range.
   Every European is a target.
2. Britain is an American aircraft carrier.
   France is an American colony.
   West Germany is an American protectorate.
3. Britons are stupid.
   The French are stupider.
   The Germans are stupidest.
4. Paris is U. S. Staff Headquarters.
   Berlin is a suburb of New York.
   Vienna is an American fair ground.
5. Heidelberg is an American wine shop.
   Baden-Baden is an American bar.
   Bremen is an American naval harbour.
   Bonn is a (bad) American joke.
6. Every good American soldier should have a French mistress,
   An Italian stableboy,
   A Belgian washerwoman,
   A Dutsch driver,
   A German valet.
7. Behave as if you were at home.
   Punch the Frenchman on the chin,
   The Italian in the stomach,
   The Beneluxer in the kidneys,
   And the German full in the face:
   That all helps to popularise,
   The American way of life.
8. The Elbe is a tributary of the Hudson.
   Stockholm lies on the Po.
   Iceland is somewhere in the Balkans:
   As an American you need know nothing more of Europe.
   And the Europeans definitely want to know nothing more of you.

W. W. Aschenbach.

THE ETERNAL BUREAUCRATS

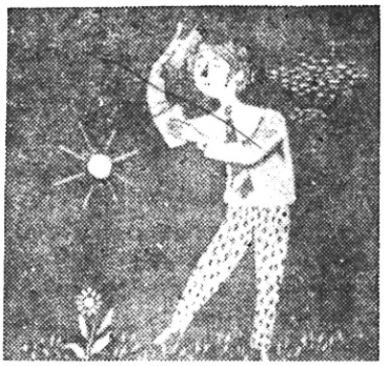
"It's awful. My husband is now busy drafting a circular for me, entitled 'Introductory notes on the modus of carrying out spring cleaning'."

"We change places regularly of course. First he chips the mortar off the bricks and I keep register, and then I chip and he registers."

then of course our foundries in Silesia . . .

and the factories which we acquired in the Ukraine in 1941 . . .

and by then we shall have achieved such a decisive victory that we need do nothing but run"



"I love everybody, just everybody —

and even if danger approaches I hear and see nothing —

because I simply don't believe in —

another wa..."

GUIDE TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

By Kurt Tucholsky

Tips for a bad speaker.

Never begin at the beginning, but about three miles before the beginning. Like this:

"Ladies and gentlemen. Before I come to the topic of the evening, I should like to tell you in a few words..."

Here you have practically everything which gets you off to a good start: a stiff form of address; a beginning before the beginning; the announcement about what you intend to speak; and that little phrase "in a few words". You have undoubtedly captured the hearts and the ears of your audience.

Audiences appreciate having the speech thrown at them like a difficult piece of homework at school: they like being threatened with what you intend to say, what you are saying, and what you have said.

Never speak without a manuscript. It is best of all if you read every word of your speech from a manuscript. That is certain and reliable, and everybody is pleased when the speaker raises his head after every sentence and takes a quick look round to see if the audience is all still there.

Talk like you write. And I know exactly how you write. Talk with long, long sentences — sentences like you use, when you are at home and have time and patience, because the children are quiet for once, and you have quite clearly in mind the way the sentence is going to end, and you have got the various subordinate clauses well mixed up with each other, so that the listeners, who are impatiently sliding backwards and forwards on their chairs, start to go to sleep but cannot because they are waiting for the end of the sentence — that is a small sample. That is the way you must talk.

Always start with ancient Rome, and always sketch the full historical background of what you are talking about. That is not just a German speciality; it is something which all bespectacled people do. In 1924 I once heard a Chinese student speaking. He started like this:

"To begin with I should like to sketch shortly the historical development of my homeland since 2000 B. C...." and was quite astonished when everyone burst out laughing.

That is the way to do it. Of course you are quite right: people won't understand you properly otherwise, if they don't know the historical background. Of course the people have not come to your lecture to hear about real living life; they want to hear about lots of things that they can easily look up in the encyclopedia. Alright then: give them history, history by the shovelful.

Don't worry if you have no response from your audience. Don't fuss about things like that. Don't worry about the response or the bad air in the hall: keep right on speaking.

It is very important to turn all your sentences inside out. Never say: "The taxes are too high." That is far too simple. Say: "I should like, in addition to what I have already said, to mention the fact that after serious consideration I have come to the conclusion that the taxes..." That is the way to say it.

Drink a glass of water at your audience every now and then. It is a sight they love to see.

If you should happen to crack a joke, laugh first, so that people know what is coming.

In addition to what I have just said about the technique of speaking I should like to add that plenty of statistics always improve a speech. It always quietens people down, and since everyone is capable of juggling with ten long numbers in his head at the same time, it is very amusing.

Always anounce the end of your speech a long time in advance, so that your audience don't have a stroke when you actually finish. Announce the end and then start again from the beginning and talk for a further half hour. You can repeat this procedure again and again.

Never talk for less than an hour and a half: it is not worth starting your speech if it is shorter.

When one person speaks, the others have to listen. That is your chance. Misuse it.

Tips for a good speaker.

Simple sentences. Simple sentences. Simple sentences.

An exact plan of your speech in your head, and as little on paper as possible. Hard facts, or an appeal to the emotions: a barbed arrow or a harp. A speaker is no encyclopedia. His audience have that at home.

The sound of one voice is very tiring, so never speak for more than forty minutes. Don't try to achieve effects outside your range: the platform is merciless, and you are more naked there than in a sunbath.

Remember what Otto Brahms said:

"What you cut out can't flop."

SOCIALIST CITY ON THE ODER

1. Works Entrance to the "Ost Steel Kombinat". 2. Main Shopping Street. 3. Town Hall. 4. Central House of Culture and Theatre. 5. House of Political Organisations and Trade Unions. 6. Central Square. 7. Post Office. 8. State Bank. 9. Savings Bank. 10. Fire Brigade. 11. Library. 12.—14. Cinemas. 15. Hotel. 16.—18. Restaurants. 19.—21. Cafes. 22. Church. 23. High School. 24.—28. Elementary Schools 29. Sports School. 30. Youth Work Centre. 31.—34. Pioneer Clubs. 35.—39. Kindergartens. 40.—43. Day Nurseries. 44. Youth House. 45. Hospital and Clinic. 46. T. B. Sanatorium. 47. Night sanatorium. 48. Mothers' Centre. 49. Stadium. 50. Playing Fields. 51. Tennis Courts. 52. Boating Centre. 53. Swimming Pool. 54. Open-air Swimming Bath. 55. Cemetery. 56. Crematorium. 57. Bachelor Quarters. 58. Students' Home. 59. Apprentices' Home. 60. Old Age Pensioners' Home. 61. Park of Culture. 62. Craftsmen's Cooperatives. 63.—66. Laundries. 6. Garage and Repair Shop.

24 million bricks reclaimed in Berlin

Voluntary workers have reclaimed a total of over 24 million bricks from the bomb ruins in East Berlin in the first seven months of this year, Lord Mayor Friedrich Ebert announced. This was enough to build 1000 average apartments.

The first stage of the great Stalin Allee rebuilding plan will be completed well before the end of this year, the Lord Mayor stated, and 2000 families will be able to move into the most modern apartments there. This was over and above the thousands of other apartments which were going up steadily in other parts of the Democratic Sector.

The great rebuilding programme is being financed by loans repayable in six years time, and a total of 1,300,000 citizens of the German Democratic Republic are subscribing three percent of their income to the loan.

Lord Mayor Ebert explained that one reason for the success of the town planning scheme in East Berlin was that the property of all big landlords had been expropriated, and that they could no longer interfere in the building plans.

"To get an apartment in the houses which we are now building it is not necessary to have the most money. These apartments go to those who work best for our people, to the Activists" said Lord Mayor Ebert.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

The editor is on holiday, so here is a guest notebook by Georg Honigmann, editor of the "B.Z, am Abend", Berlin's most popular evening paper. The regular Berlin Notebook will be resumed in the next issue.

We have received a letter from Frau Elisabeth Lewandowski, Jung Straße 5, Berlin O 112, asking whether it is forbidden to listen to RIAS, the "Radio In The American Sector". Here is my reply.

There are three of us in my family — my wife, myself, and our three year old daughter Barbara. We are living now in a small, friendly house, and we have started to build up again from the bottom. We have bought some furniture and a lot of books which cover a whole wall.

When we come home from work we play with our little daughter for a while, and then we read. But we soon get sleepy, for our work was hard.

We are probably not doing the very best jobs in the world, but we do our best to make them better, and we both of us believe that what we are doing is something useful. For the first time in my life — and I am not so young any more — I can feel solid ground under my feet. I know that I shall still have a job tomorrow, and that I shall always be able to get a job. I have not the slightest worry on this score. I know too that if one of us falls ill we shall be looked after. These simple basic principles of our democratic life today apply to everyone.

A Full Life

And what about our daughter, Barbara? You know yourself how fathers are. When I watch her playing so cleverly I sometimes think: "She will become a great engineer." Then again when she sings some nonsense song which she has made up herself, then I think "... or perhaps a poet". But the plain fact of the matter is that she has the chance of becoming anything she likes, so long as she has the talent and works hard.

We know that this full life is no dream from which we may be rudely awakened at any time. We know that it is based upon the hard work of the millions of men and women who work in the factories and on the fields of our Republic. All of us are united by the wish that things should go on getting better. And they will get better, if peace is preserved. That is the basic reason for all our work.

Things have not always been like this, for us personally. We have bitter years in exile behind us. We were lucky enough to escape the gas-chambers in which the nazi cannibals executed so many of our relations, but we lived the life of outsiders, exploited by hard-faced men whose only thought was profit.

Through these long years we longed for Germany, longed for our homeland, despite everything. We longed for a Germany in peace, a Germany run by the simple and decent Germans and not by the nazi criminals. Our hearts were heavy, and whenever we heard a tenor singing a Schubert song in broken German we felt like crying.

And that brings me to the subject of RIAS, the Radio In The American Sector of Berlin. Should I sit down and listen to transatlantic commentators, nasally denouncing the work upon which we are expending our energy? Should I waste my time listening to Americanised young Germans, whose pride it is to speak German with the accent of a Milwaukee salesman? Who gives these people the right to make fun of us, of you Frau Lewandowski, and of me? Because that is what they do. They laugh at us through the microphone, telling us day in and day out that we are living in a mad-house and are too stupid to notice it. Do they really think we are so stupid, so blind, so deaf?

Who are they, these ladies and gentlemen of RIAS? What is RIAS? You apparently think it is a radio station, Frau Lewandowski. There you are making a great mistake. Just ask any American officer and he will tell you: "RIAS is a branch of the psychological warfare department, run by the American secret service."

The officials in the studios of RIAS in the Kufsteiner Strasse in West Berlin are, without exception, Intelligence Officers, members of the United States Espionage Service. When they started RIAS they collected together former members of the espionage ring run by nazi master-spy Admiral Canaris, and since then they have reinforced themselves with selected members of the Gestapo.

Anybody who has any experience in these matters knows that in the "Programmes for the East Zone" transmitted by RIAS there are code signals for American agents in the German Democratic Republic. A single word or an apparently harmless sentence is a message to agent so-and-so ... and a few hours later the barns in the village of X go up in flames, or there is a mysterious explosion in the Y factory.

Deadly Soap opera

You must not allow yourself to be mislead by the music, the variety acts, the concerts and so on which the gentlemen from RIAS offer you in such variety every day. This is all part of the business. In the United States a soap manufacturer buys Toscanini or Stokowski to play on the radio so that the public buys more of his products. In the same way the RIAS officers offer all sorts of entertainment as bait, so that you shall swallow their products.

But their products are not just soap-flakes. Their product is war. They are dealers in civil war: a civil war in which they want to lead German mercenaries against you, Frau Lewandowski, against your family, your friends and your neighbours.

The RIAS officers have already begun their war, with their incitement to sabotage, with their rumours and their destructive work in all its forms.

Everybody who listens to RIAS, and who even half believes the lies which it spreads, is helping to extend this running sore of war. You cannot intend to do a thing like that, Frau Lewandowski.

You posed a simple question Frau Lewandowski. "Is it forbidden to listen to RIAS?" you asked. I can give you a simple answer. For every decent and intelligent German this is something which forbids itself.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 German marks. 8/—sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, post free.

British subs. to:
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U. S. subs. to:
National Guardian, 17 Murray St., New York 7.

All other communications to:
Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III, Berlin W 8, Germany.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter der Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Amtes für Information der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.